

Importance and Necessity

Of Increasing

TILLAGE,

BY

An Act of Parliament, in *Ireland*,
in Proportion to the Number of
its Inhabitants,

H. Publicola.

DEMONSTRATED:

TOGETHER

With the Usefulness and Advantages of erecting
Public Granaries, and granting PRÆMIUMS
on the Exportation of Corn:

In a LETTER

Addressed to the RIGHT HONOURABLE

J O H N, Earl *Grandison*.

*O Fortunatos, sua si bona norint,
Agricolae! —*

D U B L I N:

Printed for *PETER WILSON*, in *Dame-street*.

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importance and necessity

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THE LANCET

in proportion to the number of its inhabitants.

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UNITED STATES

STANDARD TITRE OF 1000000

30 H. M. East Grandison

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Printed for Peter Wilson, in Dame Street.

MADEIRA

The GREAT
Importance and Necessity
Of Increasing

TILLAGE,

BY

An Act of Parliament, in *Ireland*,
in Proportion to the Number of
its Inhabitants,

DEMONSTRATED.

My LORD,

IN the Year 1741, at the Request of *that*
great and good Prelate, and Irish Patriot,
Doctor Boulter, then Lord Primate of all
Ireland, I publish'd "*A Dissertation on the Inlarge-*
ment of Tillage, the erecting of public Granaries,
and the regulating, employing, and supporting the
Poor in this Kingdom." But, as nothing mate-
rial was then, or since, done by the Legislature,
on any of these interesting and important Points, I
have once more, by the Importunity of several
considerable, publick-spirited Persons, been prevailed
upon, to resume so much of these Subjects as relates
to "*The Inlargement of Tillage, and the erecting of*
public Granaries," leaving it to the Bishops and
Clergy, who have more Leisure and better Heads,
to project Schemes for the better Employment and

Support of the *Poor*, which, I believe, was originally a *Branch* of their *Duty*. And, when I had once determined to *publish* my *Sentiments* on these *Subjects*, which are now, in many *Instances*, varied and enlarged, according to the *different* *Circumstances* of the *Times*, it was *easy* also for me to determine, to *whom* I should address them.

It is well known by *Experience*, that *Matters* of a *public Nature*, in all *Kingdoms*, must first be warmly espoused by some *great Men*, who have not only *Knowledge*, but *Power* and *Inclination*, to engage, and set others to work, in order the more speedily and effectually to bring them to bear: Otherwise, they will go but heavily on, though never so reasonable and necessary in themselves, and evidently productive of the common *Good*: But more especially in this *Kingdom*, wherein, of all *Nations* of the *World*, that *Maxim*, that, "*What is every Body's Business, is no Body's,*" does most universally prevail. To whom, therefore, can I address myself, with greater Reason, or Probability of Success, on this Occasion, than to Lord Grandison; whose *Knowledge* is so extensive in all useful, as well as curious, *Matters*; whose *Power* is so much exercised, not only in private *Acts* of *Goodness*, but *public Utility*; and whose *Inclination* to promote the *Good* of his *Country*, is so clearly demonstrable from the great *Labour*, *Trouble*, and *Expence*, he has publicly been at, in cultivating barren *Grounds*; and in making beneficial, as well as magnificent and fine, *Improvements*; but more especially, in building a neat *Town*, for a *Colony* of *Protestant Linen-Manufacturers*; and, what is still more in an *irreligious Age*, in erecting, and generously endowing a *Church* for their *Use*, in the *Midst* of an *uncultivated, Popish Part* of the *Kingdom*? A *Part*, which, of late *Years*, (as well as many others throughout the *Kingdom*,) is so over-run with *Dairy-Cows*, and barren

barren black Cattle, to the almost utter Exclusion and Neglect of Tillage, that, should God be pleased to visit us with a Frost, as he did some Years ago, and thereby destroy our Potatoes, the common Food of the Natives; or, our Black-Cattle, with some fatal Distemper, as in the neighbouring Nations; or, should he blast the Crops of other Countries, and consequently hinder our Importation of foreign Corn; or, should he, at any Time, suffer our Enemies suddenly and unexpectedly to invade this Island; or, obstruct our Navigation, when no better stored with Corn than at present; or, (to add no more,) should the Prices of Beef, Butter, and Cheese, happen to fall, only for one Year, or two, which, 'tis to be feared, will soon be the Case—Is it not morally certain, that not only the Generality of the Farmers and Cottiers of Ireland, who pay great Rents, must soon be impoverished and become Beggars; but also, that many of the Landlords themselves must, in a short Space of Time, be reduced to great Necessities, or perhaps undone?

In order, therefore, to rectify the Mistakes of some; to remove the Prejudices of others; and, if possible, to open the Eyes of all my Countrymen on these Subjects, which, at this Juncture, seem to be of great Importance to the Kingdom; I shall, in a very plain and artless Manner, endeavour, 1st, To lay before your Lordship and the Public, the great Reasonableness, Necessity, and various Advantages, that must arise from the timely Inlargement of Tillage, by a Law in this Kingdom; and then, delineate, or draw a Sketch of a particular Scheme, by which it may be carried into Execution, in Proportion to the Number of its Inhabitants, if the Legislature, upon due Consideration, shall find it expedient and necessary for the common Good.

And then,

2^{dly}, I shall answer all the most material Objections,

tions, that can be made to *this Scheme*; and shew, (in a *particular Manner*) that it is not only *prudent* and *expedient*; but *highly necessary*, and *beneficial*, to *Ireland* in *general*, as well as to the *particular Farmers* thereof, that *Granaries* should be *erected* in *proper Places*, throughout the *Kingdom*, at the *public Expence*; and *such Præmiums* given by the *Legislature* on the *Exportation* of *each Kind* of *Grain*, as shall appear *proper* to *them*, and *sufficient* to encourage *Farmers* to *till*, and *Merchants* to *export* it, *whensoever* it shall become *too plenty* and *redundant*.

-As to the *First*.

That *Trade* in *general* contributes greatly to the *Wealth* of any *Nation*, is a *Truth* evident and clear enough, not only from the *known History* of *Nations*, but, from *Arguments* founded on the *Nature* and *Reason* of the *Thing* itself. For, by the former, we are *assured*, that *thus* it has been in *all Ages* and *Countries*; and from the latter, it is *demonstrable*, that *thus* it must be *for ever*, in case *such Trade* be *wisely* managed. Now, it is *certain*, that the *Ballance* of *Trade* between *Ireland* and *America*, as well as *most European Countries*, is *very much* to the *Disadvantage* of *Ireland*, but particularly with respect to *Corn*, *Flower*, *Meal*, and *Malt-liquor*. For, it will appear from the *Custom-house Books*, that the *Wheat*, *Flower*, *Meal*, &c. which we *imported* for three *Years*, ending *Lady-Day*, 1733, into *Ireland*, amounted, at a *Medium Yearly*, only to 25,950 l. which, at *that Time*, was looked upon to be a *great Sum*, especially when it was in our *own Power* to *keep* it in the *Kingdom*. For the three succeeding *Years*, ending *Lady-Day*, 1736, they amounted to *so large* a *Sum* as 108,031 l. one *Year* with another. They amounted, at *least*, to the *annual Sum* of 150,000 l. for the two following *Years*. From 1738, to 1751, to 200,000 l.

200,000 l. yearly; and, for the *two last Years*, to 300,000 l. and upwards, *each Year*. So that, from *Lady-Day*, 1730, to *Lady-Day*, 1753, being twenty-three Years, if I am *rightly* informed, we imported *Corn, Flower, Meal, &c.* into *Ireland*, and *principally* from *America*, to the Amount of 3,901,943 l. *sterl.* — A prodigious Sum, and scarcely to be credited! Now, if the *whole* circulating Money of the Kingdom, since the *Conclusion* of the *late War*, be *justly* computed, not to exceed 1,200,000 l. at *most*, who can be surprised, if *Money* should, by *such a constant Drain*, soon become *scarce*? For, (not to insist on the *vast Sums drawn away* by our *Absentees* to other Countries, which, according to the *Computation* of the late ingenious *Thomas Prior, Esq;* in his *List of the Absentees of Ireland*, amounted to upwards of the Sum of 600,000 l. Yearly; nor, on the *large Sums drawn away* by our *rich Papists*, who, (since the *above Computation was made*,) have *withdrawn* themselves to other Countries out of *Resentment*, because the *Legislature* would not permit them to *carry Arms*, or for some *other Reason*; nor, on the *vast Sums sent abroad* by those *Multitudes* among us, who drink *French Wines*, wear *French Gold and Silver Laces*, *Flanders-Lace*, *Genoa Silks* and *Velvets*, and deck themselves with other *foreign Ornaments*, to the almost *utter Neglect* of the *Product* of their *own Country*; and who, therefore, ought, in *some Measure*, to be ranked among our *Absentees* (though *present* with us); I say, not to insist on these *vast Sums drawn from us Yearly*, can it be at all surprising that we should soon fall into *Poverty and Beggary*, by the *prodigious and sudden Increase* we have of *late Years* had in these *two Articles* of our *Importation* of *Corn*, and *Malt-liquors*? Nay, will it not be amazing, if, in a *course*

*course of a few Years more, we shall have any Money at all left in this insatuated Kingdom? It is allowed by all wise Politicians, " That a " great Decay in the circulating Cash of any Na- " tion is a Disease of so mortal a Nature in the " political Body, that it must infallibly end in the " utter Ruin of the State, if some powerful Remedy " be not timely applied." If this be true, then it follows evidently, that Ireland must soon be in a very poor, forlorn, and desperate Condition. I am unwilling to point out the dismal Consequences; they are too obvious to every one that reflects at all on this Subject. But still, we have this Comfort left, that the Cure is as obvious to every impartial considering Man among us, if it should be thought proper timely to apply it. For, if our Money must, in a short Time, be exhausted by our constant, great, Importation of Corn and Malt-liquor, does not the Remedy appear plain, and in our own Power, namely, " To increase " and improve our Tillage, for the future, in Pro- " portion to the Number of Inhabitants to be sup- " ported in the Kingdom." One of our Legislators observes *, " That the Improvement of Agricul- " ture, and other necessary and useful Industries; " the Increase of Inhabitants; and the procuring " to the Society a sufficient Quantity of the common " Measures of Permutations, that is to say, of " Money and its Representations, ought to be the " chief Objects of Care in every Country, where " Polity and Commerce are not left to the Guidance " of Chance. How defective the People of Ireland " are, even in the principal Article of Industry, " which a French Author very properly calleth, *The**

* David Bindon, Esq; in his Preface to his Translation of the Political Essay on Commerce.

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* David Bindon, Esq; in his Preface to his Translation of the Political Essay on Commerce.

“ *The Basis of Commerce*, fully appeareth from the
 “ frequent, or rather constant, Scarcity of Corn in
 “ this Kingdom, whereby there is a Necessity of
 “ importing the Corn of other Countries to the
 “ Value of, at least, 100,000 l. a Year. This
 “ is too great a Loss to a Nation, whose whole
 “ Exports are not much above 1,100,000 l. per
 “ Annum.” And then adds, “ That this Scarci-
 “ ty always proceedeth from an Error in Policy,
 “ which may be easily remedied, or rather easily
 “ prevented.”

This, I think, shews, even to a Demonstration,
 the great Necessity of our enlarging and improving
 our Tillage in Ireland; and more especially, since
 our Importation of Corn, Flower, Meal, and
 Malt-liquor, is now abundantly greater than in
 the Year 1738, when the above Gentleman pub-
 lished his Sentiments on this Subject; since our
 Exports are not much increased; and, since we
 have now many more People to be supported in the
 Kingdom than at that Conjunction. But, this is
 not the only Argument that may be offered on this
 Head. I shall go further, and shew briefly, that it
 has not only been the Practice of all Ages and wise
 States to encourage and promote Tillage, but also,
 that the Profit and Advantage arising from it,
 above what can possibly arise from Pasture among
 us in Ireland, must be exceedingly great; and shall
 then point out several other Advantages, necessarily
 flowing from it to this Kingdom, under its present
 Circumstances; and, therefore, that it ought to
 be promoted, enlarged, and improved by a Law.

If we look into sacred and prophane History, we
 shall find, that the enterprizing Genius of Man
 began to exert itself soon after the Fall in various
 Arts and Sciences, either useful, or entertaining:
 And among these, Agriculture was, no doubt, one
 of the first, as being absolutely necessary for the
 Support of human Life. Moses, the first and great

Law-giver

Law-giver of the Jews, tells us, "*Cain was a Husbandman, or Tiller of the Ground;*" or, as *Josephus* says *, "*The Inventor of Tillage.*" *Diodorus Siculus* † supposes, "*That the first Men were not only obliged to till the Ground, but to try, and, by various Experiments, to find out the best and most proper Method of cultivating, as well as to invent and make all such Instruments as were necessary for it.*"

Belus *, the second King of *Babylon*, supposed, by some Writers, to be the same with *Nimrod*, not only appointed a Set of Men, who were to make it their whole Business to till the Ground; but also made it Part of the *Priests Office* to observe the *Heavens* and the *Rising and Setting of the Stars*, in order to make public Declarations, when the *Seasons* began for *Tillage and Harvest*, which the People had no way to find out by any *Diaries*, then made, or by any *Tables of Chronology*.

In *Ægypt*, as § *Diodorus Siculus* tells us, "*There were three Orders of Men, of which, that of the Husbandmen was one.*" *Herodotus* does the same, but with this Difference, that he makes seven Orders of Men in that Kingdom. There *Ihs* and *Osiris* are said, by several Writers, to have found out *Agriculture* and the *Invention of Corn*, and to have taught other useful Arts, whereby they rendered themselves famous to Posterity; and therefore, are by some *Historians* said, to be "*the true Bacchus and Ceres of the Antients.*" And, 'tis well known, that *Joseph* was, by *Pharaoh* or *Thufimires*, for his *Wisdom* and *Forefight of seven Years of Plenty*, and then of *seven Years more of Famine* that were to insue, promoted to be *Prime Minister* of that potent Kingdom. In

* *Joseph. L. I.*

† *Diodor. Sicul. L. I.*

‡ *Shuckford's Connect.*

§ *Diodor. Sicul. L. I.*

In *Persia*, the *Kings themselves* amply rewarded such as had well and duly tilled their *Fields*; and punished the negligent and idle with the utmost Severity.

In *Greece*, *Triptolemus*, Son of *Celeus*, King of *Attica*, is, by some *Historians*, said to have been the first, who, spying *Corn* to grow of its own Accord, reaped it; and after that, plowing and sowing more, he grew so skilful, that he wrote *Commentaries* of *Tillage*, and sent them abroad into the *World*; though, as others, with greater Probability, assert, he learned the Art of *Tillage* from *Ceres* in *Ægypt*, and transplanted it into *Attica*. The ancient *Greeks*, we read, maintained themselves by *Tillage*, as well as by *Plunder*, during the Wars of *Troy*. *Solon*, in his Reformation of the State of *Athens*, left the four Tribes of the People as they had been ordered by *Erectheus*, whereof that of *Husbandmen* was one; and *Pisistratus*, though a *Tyrant*, commanded the *Athenians* to apply themselves to *Husbandry*, as both *Plutarch* and *Diogenes Laertius* inform us. In a Word, *Agriculture* was regarded in this Country, as an Art or Science, and therefore, several of their best Authors and Philosophers wrote Books upon it.

If we look into the History of the ancient *Romans*, we shall there find, that *Agriculture* was held in great Honour by that wise and glorious People. *Romulus*, as * *Dionysius* of *Halicarnassus* informs us, allowed the *Freemen* of *Rome* but two Professions, namely, *War* and *Agriculture*. *Numa*, in order to banish Poverty, recommended the Cultivation of Lands to the *Romans*, says *Plutarch* in the Life of that King. " He divided
" among the poorer Citizens, says *Rollin*, the
" conquered Lands, to keep them from Idleness,
" and its Attendant, Injustice, by the Enjoyment
B 2 of

* *Dionys. Halicar. L. 2.*

“ of the *lawful Fruits of their Labour*, and to
 “ incline them to a *Love of Peace*, so necessary to
 “ the *Husbandman*. He frequently himself viewed
 “ the *Labours of the Field*; judged of the *Owners*
 “ by the *Work*; advanced to *Posts* the *laborious*,
 “ *diligent*, and *industrious*; and reprimanded the
 “ *negligent and slothful*.” By *these various Means*,
 supported by his own Example, he rendered
Agriculture so *honourable*, that, in the following
 Ages, the *Generals* and *chief Magistrates*, far
 from regarding as *beneath* them, the *rural Occu-*
pations, gloried in *cultivating* their own *Fields*
 with the *same victorious and triumphant Hands*,
 that had conquered the *Enemies* of the *State*,
 and put *their Armies* to flight. Was not *Quin-*
tius Cincinnatus taken from the *Plow* to be made
Consul; yea, *Dictator*, the *chief Magistrate*, of
Rome? And, did not *Virgil*, in his *immortal Poem*
 on this Subject, lay down *Rules* for, as well as
 celebrate the *Praise of, Agriculture*?

But, not to insist longer on the Practice of the
Antients with regard to *Tillage*, which must be
 well known to *every one* conversant in *History*,
 do not *Poland, Prussia, France, Flanders, Swit-*
zerland, Italy, and all other *wise Countries*, as
 well as *England*, at *this Day*, till their *Lands* to
 such a Degree, as to be able, not only to support
 the *Inhabitants* of their own respective *States*, but
 also, frequently to supply others, in Cases of *Famine*,
Scarcity, or *Distress*? Nay, Do not our own *Colo-*
nies in America, with *immense Labour and Pains*,
 till their *respective rough and woody Grounds* so
 well, as to be in a Condition not only to *serve*
themselves, but to *export vast Quantities of Corn*
and Flower to *Europe*, particularly to *Ireland*? So
 that, nothing can be more evident, from the
Practice of all Ages and wise States, both *antient*
and modern, than that, *Tillage* was *always encour-*
aged, promoted, and improved.

But,

But, in *Ireland*, it is said, that the *Country* abounds so with *rich Pasture*, that *Farmers* may find *much greater Profit* by *feeding Bullocks*, than they can by *Tillage*; and therefore, are under a *Necessity* of pursuing *that Method* preferably to *Tillage*, in order to *pay* their respective *Rents*.

But, *this* will appear *erroneous* and *false* to every *impartial Searcher* after *Truth* from the following *Calculations*.

* The *Bullocks*, which we commonly slaughter in *Ireland* for *Exportation*, are generally sold, at a *Medium*, for 4 l. 5 s. a-piece. I allow the *Carcase* to weigh *five Hundred*, and to be sold for *ten Shillings per Hundred*; the *Hide* to weigh an *Hundred*, and to be sold for *twenty Shillings*; and the *Tallow* to weigh *six Stone per Bullock*, which, at 2 s. 6 d. *per Stone*, amounts to *fifteen Shillings*, which several Sums (not to mention the Value of the *Offals*) added together, make 4 l. 5 s. The Land employed, generally, in *feeding a Bullock*, is *three Acres*, at *most*, for the *first two Years*, and *four Acres and a half* of *choice Land* for the *three last*, that is, an *Acre* for *each Year* of said *three Years*, except the *last*, when an *Acre and a half* will be found *little enough* to find him in *proper Grass* and *Hay* to *fit* him for *Slaughter*. Now, it is *certain*, the said *first mentioned three Acres*, though generally very *indifferent coarse Land*, yet, if *tilled* in the *ordinary Irish Way*, cannot be supposed to bear *less* than *six Barrels of Oats per Acre*; and, where fit for *Winter-Corn*, will bear *four Barrels of Wheat*, or *six of Barley*, at *least*. If therefore, we allow *3 s. per Barrel* for the *Oats*; *4 s. 6 d.* for the *Barley*; and *11 s.* for the *Wheat*; (a very low *Computation*;))

* See this Argument and several of the others following, copiously handled by the ingenious Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*, published in the Year 1738, and recommended by Dean Swift; but, I believe, now out of Print.

Computation ;) and suppose *one third* Part of the Ground to bear *Wheat*, or *Barley*, and the other *two Thirds* to bear *Oats*; then, the *Product*, at a *Medium*, will amount to 1 l. 3 s. per Acre, besides the *Straw* and *Stubble-grass*; and consequently, of said *three Acres* of *coarse* Ground to 3 l. 9 s. yearly. — As to the *four Acres* and a *half* of *choice* Land, it is certain, they will yield, at least, six *Barrels* of *Wheat* per Acre, nine of *Barley*, and eight of *Oats*, besides *Seed* and the *Straw*; (not to mention the *Stubble-grass*); upon Supposition, that *one Third* of the Ground bears *Oats*, and the other *two Thirds*, *Wheat* and *Barley*; and allowing the *several* above-mentioned *low* Rates for the *different* Kinds of *Grain*, then, the *Value* of the *Product*, at a *Medium*, will amount to 2 l. 3 s. 6 d. per Acre; and so, of the said *four Acres* and a *half*, to 9 l. 15 s. 9 d. and consequently, of the *whole*, to 13 l. 4 s. 9 d. But, as it is *necessary*, that *Land*, employed in *Tillage*, should have *proper* *Intervals* of *Rest*, in order to *strengthen* it for *future* *Crops*, I shall, therefore, suppose *no* more than *one half* of the *above* *Sum*, which is 6 l. 12 s. 4 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. to be the *Value* of the *whole* *Product*, which *must* be *allowed* by the *most* *prejudiced* *Man* in the *Kingdom* to be not only a *moderate*, but a *very low* *Computation*, after a *proper* *Deduction* for the *Expence* of *Rent*, *Tillage*, *Seed*, *Tythe*, &c. So that, our *Pasture-ground*, if employed under *Tillage*, would, instead of *grazing* and *feeding* a *Bullock*, worth, at *most*, but 4 l. 4 s. produce *Corn*, at *least* to the *Value* of 6 l. 12 s. 4 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. and, consequently, the *Gain* appears plainly to be 2 l. 7 s. 10 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. more by *tilling* the *Land* employed in *feeding* every *Bullock*, than can *possibly* arise from his *Pasturage*. — And would not *one half* of this *Gain* be a *great* *Encouragement* to prefer *Tillage* to *Pasture*, if we were not *infatuated*?

A learned

A learned Member * of the present honourable House of Commons of Ireland, shews clearly the Profit arising from Agriculture, and the Difference between the Profit to the Public, of Lands employed that Way, and that of Grazing or Pasture, in the following Manner. He shews, " That
 " an Acre of *Wheat*, Plantation-measure, in the
 " common and ordinary Way of Tillage in Ireland,
 " will yield seven Barrels, *Bristol*-measure, which,
 " computed at 12 s. per Barrel for Exportation,
 " would amount to 4 l. 4 s. By *Fallowing*, a
 " Year's Corn being allowed to be lost, the Half
 " is the Value of the Acre per Annum, which
 " amounts only to 2 l. 2 s. Now, it is plain,
 " that, except Seed, and Repairs, all the rest is
 " clear Gain to the Nation. For, the Maintenance of so many Hands and Cattle is Part of
 " the Benefit and Profit of the Public. So that,
 " the Seed and Repairs, not exceeding 20 s. for
 " two Years, that is, 10 s. per Annum, there
 " will be a national Profit of 1 l. 12 s. per Annum."

" But, to the Farmer, above his Labour, computed when sown at 1 l. 3 s. 2 d. to which add
 " his Seed, Rent, Tythe, Weeding, Reaping, Threshing, and sending to Market, at 2 l. 3 s. 6 d. the
 " Gain is but 17 s. 4 d. which is 8 s. 8 d. per
 " Annum, over and above all his Rent, Tythe, Labour, &c. If *Wheat* sold for 15 s. per Barrel,
 " he would then gain 17 s. 8 d. per Annum. Thus,
 " by the worst Way of Tillage, when the Markets
 " are at the lowest, including Tythe and Rent at 9 s.
 " per Acre, there is 17 s. 8 d. annual Profit, over
 " and above the People maintained, who are necessary
 " to till and manure it."

" But,

* Arthur Dobbs, Esq; in his *Essay on the Trade and Improvement of Ireland*.

“ But, if, (says he,) we take Tillage in a
 “ proper Light, and consider it, as plowed after
 “ the English and best Manner; then, the Ex-
 “ pence of Plowing, Seed, Rent, Tythe, and all
 “ Charges, ’till sent to the Market, will not ex-
 “ ceed 2 l. 16 s. 5 d. $\frac{1}{4}$. and the Produce upon
 “ an Acre may reasonably be computed at twelve
 “ Barrels per Acre, which would amount to
 “ 7 l. 4 s. So that, the neat Profit would be
 “ 4 l. 7 s. 6 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. and the annual Profit 2 l. 3 s.
 “ 9 d. $\frac{1}{2}$. to the Farmer; to the Public all the
 “ Remainder as before, except Seed and Repairs,
 “ which would be above 3 l. 5 s. per Annum na-
 “ tional Profit. An Acre of Rye, in coarser and
 “ higher Grounds, may reasonably be computed at
 “ half of the Wheat, though some account it as
 “ good, having generally more Barrels upon the
 “ Acre. The Expence of an Acre of white Pease,
 “ in plowing, Rent, Tythe, &c. until fit for the
 “ Market, is about 1 l. 14 s. and, at eight Bar-
 “ rels per Acre, and 12 s. per Barrel, there would
 “ be neat Profit, 3 l. 2 s. per Annum. Beans,
 “ above 2 l. Grey Pease, the same. Barley, at
 “ 6 s. per Barrel, about 2 l. 10 s. And Oats,
 “ about 1 l. 10 s.”

“ By these Computations, continues this learned
 “ Gentleman, may be seen, how much more pro-
 “ fitable Tillage is to the Kingdom, than Pasture.
 “ The Profit upon Pasture, at a Medium, does not
 “ exceed 12 s. 5 d. per Acre; whereas, the
 “ lowest upon Agriculture is 1 l. 10 s. neat Profit
 “ to the Farmer; the highest, 3 l. when the
 “ Markets are at the lowest, over and above all
 “ Charges.”

And here I must observe, that, if the national
 Profit, as well as the particular Profit of the
 Farmer, arising from the Tillage of an Acre of the
 indifferent Land in the North of Ireland, where
 this Gentleman lived, be so great, though the
 Prices

Prices are computed so low ; how much more Profit must arise from an Acre of the fertile, rich Soil in the Provinces of Munster and Leinster, if duly cultivated, where the Prices generally run much higher ?

Now, if it has been made appear, that the Profit arising from Tillage, so much exceeds that arising from the feeding of *Bullocks*, it must follow, (without entering into Particulars) that, since the Profit of grazing *Sheep* is evidently not near so great as that arising from the feeding of *Bullocks*, it must be much more advantageous to the Public to go into Tillage than the Pasturage of *Sheep*; and that, more especially, since it cannot be denied, but that *Sheep* frequently die, in great Numbers, to the great Detriment of the Proprietors; that the Prices of *Wool* are sometimes low, as well as high; and that great Quantities thereof are every Year run to France and Spain, to the great national Loss of Ireland, as well as of England.

But, if the rich Tracts of this Kingdom, or a considerable Part of them, were, pursuant to a Law, employed in Tillage, would it not, in a great Measure, take away the very Root of the Evil, by diminishing those mighty Flocks of *Sheep*, which, at present, in several Places, depopulate the Country, and prove a real Detriment to both Nations?

Nor, will it avail to say, as many mistaken People do, that the Profit arising from *Dairies*, which, of late Years, have so monstrously increased throughout the Kingdom, is much greater, than any Profit that can possibly accrue from Tillage. For, a Dairy-Cow will take two Acres and a half of the midling Ground, commonly made use of for that Purpose, to find her in proper Grass and Hay for the Year round. Said two Acres and a half, since the Rise of Land, at 8 s. per Acre, will come to 1 l. sterl. yearly; and said Cow, I will suppose, at a Medium,

a *Medium*, to produce *Butter* or *Cheese* to the yearly Value of 1 l. 15 s. *sterl.* while *Butter* and *Cheese* continue to bear *such high* Prices as they do at present. Now, said two Acres and a half under Tillage will bear, at eight Barrels of Oats per Acre, twenty Barrels; which, at 3 s. 6 d. per Barrel, the common Price now, at a *Medium*, throughout the Kingdom, will amount to the Sum of 3 l. 10 s. *sterl.* beside the *Straw*, which, in all Places, is *valuable*, either for *Sale*, or *Dung*. Now deduct 2 l. 3 s. 6 d. for the *Rent*, *Seed*, *Plowing*, and *Tythe*, of said two Acres and a half of Oats; and then, the *Profit* arising from the Tillage of two Acres and a half sown with Oats, the worst and cheapest Kind of Corn, over and above that of a *Dairy-cow*, will amount to the Sum of 1 l. 6 s. 6 d. *sterl.* yearly.

But, supposing said two Acres and a half to be sowed with *Wheat*, and to produce only so small a Quantity as four Barrels per Acre, which will make ten Barrels of *Wheat* in the whole; and, supposing said *Wheat* to be sold for 15 s. per Barrel, the *Medium-Price* at present; and deduct 3 l. *sterl.* for the *Expence* of Tillage, *Rent*, *Seed*, *Tythe*, &c. of said two Acres and a half; and then, the *Profit* arising from such Tillage will amount to the Sum of 4 l. 10 s. *sterl.* over and above what can be made of the said two Acres and a half under *Pasture* for a *Dairy-cow*. And, in the same Proportion will the *Profit* be, if the said two Acres and a half be sowed with *Barly*, *Rye*, *Pease*, or *Beans*. Which clearly shews, how much greater the *Profit* from Tillage must be, above that arising from the *Pasture* of *Dairy-Cows*; not to mention the first great *Cost* of buying in Cows for said *Dairies*; nor the annual *Expence* of keeping up new *Milch-cows* for them in the Room of such as fail; nor the frequent *Fall* of the Prices of *Butter* and *Cheese*; and, the Prices must fall inevitably, in Proportion as the contagious
Distemper

Distemper *abates* in our neighbouring Countries, and their Cattle increase ; nor the *Roguary* and *Failure* of *Dairymen*, who scruple not to *promise* to pay their Landlords *large* yearly Rents, but frequently run away with the *greatest* Part thereof, as well as with their Cows ; nor the *Loss* that may possibly be incurred, by *contagious Distempers* among the *Horned-Cattle* in this Kingdom ; or, by the *Want* of *due Fodder* in a *bad Season* ; or, by the *Land's* growing full of *Furze, Briars, and Brambles* in seven or eight Years in *rough* Countries, and consequently, *sinking* greatly in its Value ; and *that* more especially, since the *burning* of *such* Grounds is *prohibited* by a *Law* ; though it is evident from *Experience*, as well as from *Philosophy*, that the *burning* of *beathy, furzy, woody, or stiff, tenacious, clayey, and mountainous* Grounds, *meliorates* the Soil for seven or eight Years at *least*, which *otherwise* would be of *little or no* Value, either to Landlord or Tenant. It is true, indeed, to *burn* good Ground, *destroys* it. But, where is the *Necessity* of *burning* good Ground *at all* ? Should not, therefore, a *Distinction* be made, and the *burning* of good Ground be *prohibited* under *severe* Penalties ; but, the *burning* of *bad* be *permitted* under *certain* Regulations and Restrictions ? Such as, that *such* Grounds should, under *severe* Penalties, be ordered by an *Act of Parliament*, to be *manured* with *Sea-sand*, where convenient ; or, with *common Gravel, Lime, Sea-weed, Marl, or some other Manure*, before they are turned out for *grazing* ; or, with *Ashes* out of *Clay-kilns*, as has been *successfully* practised, at a *small* Expence, in *several* Parts of the Kingdom. But *more* especially, should not a *great* Penalty be laid on *all* Farmers, who should plow *above* a *certain* Number of Acres, during the *last* *seven* Years of their Leases ? Nothing being more common than for *imposing, and base* Tenants to *tear up* their Lands, when their Leases are *near*

expiring, in order to render them of *small Value* to the *Landlords*, and hinder others from taking them?

Thus, in my humble Apprehension, it appears, that the *Profit* arising from *Tillage*, even in the ordinary Manner practised in *Ireland*, not to insist on the *English* and *best* Manner, is *vastly* greater, not only to the Kingdom in general, but also to the particular *Farmers*, than any Profit that can possibly arise from *Pasturage* of any Kind whatsoever.

Not, that I would, by any Means, be understood to have *Pasture* entirely discouraged, neglected, or disused. No: But, surely, it bears too great a Proportion to the *Tillage* of the Kingdom; and, therefore, ought to be remedied effectually by the *Legislature*. For, who can say, consistently with common Sense, or common Policy, “That the *Inhabitants* of this Kingdom ought not to have *Bread* sufficient to eat with their *Beef*, “*Mutton*, *Cheese*, and *Butter*, without sending “2 or 300,000 l. every Year for it to other Countries, when every one may have enough on his “own Farm, at a small Expence, to his own “manifest Profit, as well as that of the Public?” Must not the Consequence of so great and constant a Drain of our Money prove fatal at last? “*Tillage* and *Dairies* are so far from being inconsistent,” says an excellent Writer * on this Subject, “that they really assist and improve each other. “It is necessary in Husbandry, that Land under “*Tillage* should have proper Intervals of *Pasture*, “which cannot be better employed than in *Dairies*; and therefore, I think, the *Exportation* of “*Butter*, a Branch of our Trade that ought to be “encouraged.” But, how can this be urged as an Argument

* The Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*.

Argument in favour of dry or barren Cattle, or against so much Tillage as shall be sufficient to support the Inhabitants of the Kingdom?

From *what* has been said, I think, we may clearly see the *Influence* of *Tillage*, not only on the *national Wealth*, but also on the *Wealth* of *particular Farmers*; and yet, it is certain, that *most Graziers* assert, they find *Pasture* more for their *private Gain*, in regard *they* have *less* Occasion of *Labourers, Plowing-cattle, Utensils, &c.*

“ What (says the same Gentleman) are we
 “ *then* to expect? The *public Good* draws one
 “ *Way*; *private Interest* another. It is *easy* to
 “ see the *Consequence*. This is a *national Evil*,
 “ and requires a *public Remedy*. Our *Law-*
 “ *givers* alone can unite the *private Interest* of
 “ the *Farmer*, and *public Good* of the *Nation*,
 “ by giving *such* *Encouragement* to *Tillage* as
 “ may be found *necessary* for *that* End. A *Law*
 “ to *discourage Pasture* might carry *some Ap-*
 “ *pearance* of *Injustice* in it, by affecting the *pri-*
 “ *vate Property* of those who employ their Land
 “ in *that* Manner; but, a *Law* to encourage *Til-*
 “ *lage* could not be liable to *that* Objection.
 “ For, as *such a Law* would not *lessen* the *Profit*
 “ of *Pasture*, it could not possibly occasion any
 “ *Loss* to *Graziers*, but would greatly promote
 “ the *public Good* without hurting the *private*
 “ *Property* of any Person whatsoever.” And if it
 did, surely, no *Individuals* can be so *weak*, or so
 wicked, as to put their *private Profit* in *Competiti-*
 on with the *public Good* of the *whole Kingdom*.

But, in order to recommend *this* Matter the *more*
effectually to the Consideration of your *Lordship*
 and the *Legislature*, I shall mention some *other*
Advantages attending *Tillage*, which *must* be al-
 lowed, by every *unprejudiced* Person, to be, at
this Juncture, *highly valuable* and *necessary* to the
Kingdom in general.

The

The *First* is, The *great Increase* of *People*, so much wanted at present in the Kingdom, that, in many Places, *Labourers* can scarcely be procured at all, or even necessary *Servants*. Nothing is more certain, than that the *Power* and *Riches* of every State in the World, principally depend on the *Number*, *Welfare*, and *Industry* of its *Inhabitants*. Nor, is it less certain, that the *Enlargement* of our *Tillage* would greatly add to the *Number* of *labouring Hands* in this Kingdom. In all *Pasture-countries* we may see, if we will but open our *Eyes*, only some few poor *Cottiers*, who may be termed *Servants* to the rich *Protestant Gentlemen* and *Farmers*, but *Slaves* to *Popish Landlords*, who generally treat them with great *Rigour* and *Severity*. If they increase, as they commonly do, they are obliged to fly to some other Country for some *Livelihood*. Hence, if I am rightly informed, there are now no less than 20,000 of the *Natives of Ireland* in the *military Services* of *France* and *Spain*, (and surely, we have *Reason* to remember their *Bravery* at *Fontenoy*;) and hence also, great Numbers of our poor *Weavers* have been obliged to go to *France*, *Germany*, *Spain*, and other Countries, where they have met with great *Encouragement*, and set up *Woollen Manufacturies*, to which their *Friends* in *Ireland* sometimes find *Means* to run their *Wool*, whereby they have not only instructed, but enabled, those Countries to undersell *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* at all *foreign Markets*, where there is a *Demand* for *woollen Goods* to their unspeakable *Detriment*. And, how many Thousands go every Year to the *Fish-islands*, who never return again? If these poor People stay in their own Country, they can have no regular, settled Way of subsisting themselves, but must live in *Idleness* or *extreme Poverty*, or else turn *Vagabonds*, *Thieves*, or *Robbers*. This is evident, from a short Comparison of the Province

vince of *Ulster*, with the Province of *Munster*. In the latter, as an *ingenious Writer* * observes, " We see *vast* Tracts of the *best* Land in the Kingdom, almost *unpeopled*, inhabited *only* by " a *few* dirty Wretches, dispersed among the " *Beasts* of the Field, living in so miserable a " State of Poverty and Barbarity, Sloth, Idleness, " *Popish* Ignorance and Superstition, as is a " *Shame* and *Reproach* to a *Christian* Country ; " being *more* vile than the Condition of *Indian* " Savages ; their Cloathing being of Rags ; their " Houses, *Hovels*, fitter for *Swine* than *human* " Creatures ; and the *Scantiness* and *Nastiness* of " their Food scarcely to be conceived : Or else, " they become Vagrants, Thieves, sturdy Beg- " gars, or public Robbers, with whom the " Country abounds. Whereas, in *Ulster*, where " *Tillage* has prevailed, how have the *common* " People *multiplied* since the *late happy Revolution* " under our *Deliverer* King WILLIAM the *third*, " notwithstanding the *Numbers* that went from " thence to *America* ? In how *clean* and *decent* a " Manner do they live ? How warm are their " Houses ? How clean and decent their Apparel ? " How wholesome their Food ? How flourishing " their Manufactures ? How great their Indus- " try ? How triumphant the *Protestant* Reli- " gion ? "

Another *Advantage* naturally arising from the *Enlargement* of *Tillage* in *this* Kingdom would be, " The *constant Employment* of *such* poor and idle " Persons as still remain, and abound among us ; " and, of *whom* the *Public*, at *present*, so much " complains. "

In *Countries* abounding with *Pasture*, it is cer- tain, there can be but *little* Employment for la- bouring People. For, is *Tallow* capable of much manufacturing ;

* The Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*.

manufacturing; and if it were, is not the *most* of it *exported* to other Countries? Is *Beef* capable of *any*? Are not the *Hands* required in *tanning* Leather perfectly *inconsiderable*, when compared with the *Multitudes* employed in *Tillage*, wherever it prevails? And, what makes the Case still *worse*, is, that, if I am rightly informed, we export above *one half* of our *Hides green*.

Now, whatever promotes *Labour* in *general*, increases the *national Wealth*, as well as the *Wealth* of *particular* Persons. *Labour* and *Industry* are, by all Politicians, allowed to be *undoubtedly* the *Riches* of every Country under the Sun; it being *impossible*, in the *Nature* of Things, that a *Nation* whose *Inhabitants* are *fully* employed, should ever be *poor*; which is evident, from the Case of *Holland*, even to a *Demonstration*; or, that an *idle slothful* Nation should ever be *rich*, as is but too plain from the Case of *Ireland*. But, *Want* of *Labour* and *proper Employment* for the *common* People in every Country is not only a certain *Occasion* of *Poverty* and *Misery*, but also of great *Vice* and *Immorality*; an *idle* and *slothful* People being always observed to be *profligate* and *contemptible*. Whereas, *Labour* and *Industry*, in every Nation, promote *Virtue*, and *naturally* beget *Wealth* and *Happiness*, both to the *Public* as well as to *private* Persons; and therefore, our *Tillage* ought to be *enlarged*, in regard it would *necessarily* employ *Numbers* of the *Poor* and *Idle* among us, in *Proportion* to the *Enlargement* of it, the *whole Year* round, as well as promote *Virtue*, and banish *Vice* and *Immorality*, which are *always* the *natural* *Offspring* of *Idleness*, from amongst us. Hence, says a *learned Gentleman* * of our *honourable House of Commons* before-mentioned, "The *national*

* *Arthur Dobbs*, Esq; in his *Essay on the Trade and Improvement of Ireland*.

“ *tional Profit and Power is vastly increased by*
 “ *employing so many Hands in the Management*
 “ *of Agriculture, and in making the Utenfils be-*
 “ *longing to it. For, it is reasonable to believe,*
 “ *that ten Acres in Tillage will give one Family*
 “ *full Employment; whereas, except where*
 “ *Dairies are kept, in Pasture two Hundred would*
 “ *not; consequently, two hundred Thousand Acres*
 “ *under Stock would not afford Employment for*
 “ *above one Thousand Families, and so much in*
 “ *Tillage would employ twenty Thousand.*”

Another Advantage arising from the Increase of Tillage in Ireland would necessarily be, “ The
 “ *certain Improvement of all our other Manufactures*
 “ *in general.*” Nothing is more plain and evident to every Person of common Understanding, than that, “ Whatever increases the Demand of any
 “ *manufactured Commodity, encourages that*
 “ *Manufacture.*” And, it is as evident, “ That
 “ *selling cheap, is the best and surest Method to*
 “ *enlarge such Demand.*” Now, we have Rivals in all the principal Branches of our Manufactures in France, Flanders, Holland, Germany, and Spain, whom it is our Interest, beyond all doubt, to undersell. But, can any thing be imagined more effectual to obtain this End, than to keep down the Price of Labour among ourselves? And can that be ever done, by any other Means so effectually, as by increasing our Tillage? No. When Bread is at a low Price, then our labouring People can afford to work at a low and cheap Rate: For which Reason, the Price of Labour always did, and ever must depend upon the Price of Corn in every Country. So that, nothing can be more evident, than that the Increase of Tillage among us, would be a certain Means of improving all our Manufactures in general; but more particularly of our Linen-Manufacture, the most valuable Branch of all our Exports. For, if Gentlemen of large

Estates in the Province of Munster would seriously consider the great Profit arising necessarily from Tillage and Manufactures, above Pasture, they would soon seek for Tenants in the North of Ireland, and transplant into that ill-peopled Province such Persons as are well-skilled in the Linen-Manufacture, and not only make them fair Promises, but give them substantial Encouragement, as your Lordship has done, in an exemplary Manner in the County of Waterford, and Sir Richard Cox in the County of Cork, who would soon extend over some Parts of that large Province, that valuable Manufacture, at present confined to five or six Counties of the North. But more especially, such *estated Gentlemen* would encourage and enlarge the *Hempen-Manufacture* so surprizingly neglected in Ireland, but particularly in that Province, though I will be bold to say, there is no Country on the Face of the Globe, fitter to produce Hemp, if duly cultivated, than the rich Parts of the Counties of Limerick, Tipperary, and Clare. And if, as I have been informed, Great-Britain imports from Russia and the northern Countries as much Hemp yearly, as amounts in Value to the Sum of 200,000 l. sterl. at least, for his Majesty's Fleets and other Purposes; and, as in Ireland we have free Liberty to improve this Manufacture, and afterwards to export it; and, as it would be the real Interest of England to buy and import it from us, rather than from any other People, surely, we must be blind, if we cannot see, what a vast Addition this would necessarily make to our Exports, which could not fail to enrich us: And therefore, it is to be hoped, the Legislature will take this Matter into serious Consideration, and enlarge this particular Branch, by ordering *Præmiums* to be given for encouraging the *Hempen-Trade*, or by some other more effectual Method: And that more especially, since his Grace the Duke of Dorset, whose Zeal

for

for the *Prosperity and Welfare* of *this Kingdom*, we have *more than once* experienced, has been pleased to assure us, in his most excellent Speech from the Throne, “ That he will most chearfully
 “ *assist their Endeavours for the further Advance-*
 “ *ment of that valuable and important Branch of*
 “ *our Trade, the Linen-Manufacture; and that,*
 “ *in providing for its Support and Encourage-*
 “ *ment, we may securely depend upon his Majesty's*
 “ *most gracious Favour and Protection.*”

Besides, not only the *Linen and Hempen-Manufactures*, but also the *Protestant Religion* would, by *this Means*, be greatly extended over *that Province*, where there are *six Papists to one Protestant*, by a moderate Computation, in the greatest Part thereof; which would not only very much contribute to *strengthen and promote the Protestant Interest* of the Kingdom in general, but *secure the Peace and Quiet of that Popish Part* of the Kingdom at all Times, and on all Occasions. This would effectually prevent *Riots, Insurrections, and Mobbing*, on the *Farmers or Merchants* Exportation of Corn, so frequently practised of late Years, in several Cities, Towns, and Villages of the Kingdom, but especially in *Munster*, that the Government has been obliged to send Part of the *standing Army* to several of them, in order to preserve the *Peace and Tranquillity* of the Country. So that, the *Increase of Tillage* would not only be the *true Interest and Advantage* of the People in general, but likewise, in a particular Manner, of the *Government of Ireland*.

And certainly, for these, and the like important Reasons it was, that in *England* great Care has been always taken of *this Matter*; the *Wisdom* of *that People* appearing in no one Instance greater, than in the singular Regard they bore to *Tillage*, even long before the Date of their written Laws. For, we read, that the *antient Common-Law* of

that Kingdom exempted *Beasts of the Plough* from *Distresses*, and protected them, even against the *Landlord himself*, where any other *Distress* could be found, to the End, that no *Impediment* might be given to *Tillage*. But, however that may be, it is certain, that the *wise Legislature* of that People have, at *different Times*, and on *many Occasions*, not only issued out *Proclamations* and *Commissions of Inspection*, but also made *Ordinances* and *Laws* to *promote* and *enlarge Tillage*. My Lord Bacon tells us *, that in the Reign of *Henry VII.* a *Statute* was made to prevent the *many Mischiefs*, which, at that Time, arose from the *great Want* of *Tillage*, and from converting *arable Land* into *Pasture*. His Successor *Henry VIII.* as Lord Herbert tells us †, finding the *Mischiefs* still increasing by the *Want* of *Tillage*, and turning *Corn-farms* into *Pasture*, ordered the *antient Statutes* to be looked into, and *strictly* executed. And accordingly, directed his *Commission* to the *Justices of the Peace*, “ To restore all the *Tillage-grounds*, that “ had been *inclosed* at any Time within *fifty Years* “ *last past*, and to cause the *Houses*, *antiently* “ upon them, to be *re-edified*. This, we find, put a *Stop*, for that Time, to those *wicked Practices*, but the *Evil* soon increased again. For ‡, *twelve Years* after, the *Legislature* thought it necessary to provide a *new Remedy*, and made a *Law*, with this *Preamble*, “ Because the *Greediness* of some, who have gotten into their Hands “ *much Cattle* and *many Farms*, which they have “ turned from *Tillage* to *Pasture* (especially for “ *Sheep*) *old Rents* are *raised*; *Prices* of Things “ *enhanced*; and so must *Theft* and *Poverty* ensue; “ therefore,

* In the Life of *Henry VII.*

† In his Life of *Henry VIII.*

‡ See the Proposal for lessening the excessive Price of Bread-Corn in *Ireland*.

“ therefore, it was enacted, 1st, That no Man
 “ should have, in his own or farmed Lands, above
 “ two thousand Sheep; and 2^{dly}, That no Man
 “ should take and hold above two Farms at once,
 “ and those to be in the same Parish, under certain
 “ severe Penalties there set down.” In the twenty-
 fifth Year also of this King’s Reign, there was
 another severe Statute made for the promoting of
 Tillage; and yet, notwithstanding all this Care
 taken in the Reign of Henry VIII, we find, in the
 succeeding Reign of his Son Edward VI. * there
 was so great Poverty and Discontent throughout the
 Kingdom on Account of the Decay of Tillage, and
 the inclosing of Lands for Pasture, that there were
 many dangerous Insurrections, which produced a
 Commission, immediately to inquire into these
 Abuses; and occasioned a Proclamation to be
 issued against Inclosures, against letting Houses fall
 to Decay, and against unlawful converting of
 arable Ground into Pasture. In the same Reign
 also, another Act passed, “ That so much Land
 “ should be tilled as had been employed four
 “ Years in that Manner at any Time in forty-two
 “ Years next before the making of such Act, on
 “ Pain of forfeiting five Shillings an Acre.” In
 the Reign of Philip and Mary, the Law that had
 been made in the Reign of Henry VII. for encour-
 aging Husbandry, was confirmed; and Commis-
 sioners were appointed to enquire into, hear, and de-
 termine Offences against it, and invested with
 Power to bind the Offenders by Recognizance for
 rebuilding decayed Houses of Husbandry, and for
 converting Pasture into Tillage. In the Reign of
 Queen Elizabeth an Act was made, “ That all
 “ such Lands as had been in Tillage in any one
 “ Year, and so kept four Years at any Time in
 “ thirty-five Years next before the making of said
 “ Act,

* See Strype’s Mem. of King Edward VI.

“ *Act*, should be *plowed* and kept in *Tillage*, according to the *Nature* of the *Soil* and *Custom* of the *Country*, on Pain of forfeiting *ten Shillings* an *Acre* yearly, to be recovered by *Distress*.” In the *Reign* of our late glorious Deliverer, King *William*, a *Law* was made, giving a *Præmium* of 2 s. 6 d. *per Quarter* for the *Exportation* of *Barley* and *Malt*, when *these* are at 24 s. *per Quarter*; 3 s. 6 d. for *Rye*, when it is at 32 s. and 5 s. for *Wheat*, when it is at 48 s. *per Quarter*, or under; which shews, as a very ingenious *Writer* * observes, “ That the *Legislature* of *England* did not think the *Product* of the *Soil*, a sufficient *Recompence* for the *Husbandman*’s *Labour*, but determined to reward his *Toil*, by paying him large Sums of Money out of the *public Treasure*.”

Thus we may see, how the *Legislators* of *England* acted with *Regard* to *Husbandry* and *Tillage* for some *Hundreds* of *Years* past. But, notwithstanding there was the same, or rather greater *Necessity* for the *Improvement* of *Tillage* in *Ireland*, the *Love* of *Ease*, of *lazy Pasture*, and of *Slothfulness* to the last *Degree*, being the *Delight* of the *Irish* *Natives*, and *Industry* and the *Toil* of *Husbandry* their greatest *Aversion*; yet, strange to be believed by *Foreigners*! it was never thought necessary to ballance *these* prevailing *Inclinations* of their *Minds* by proper and effectual *Laws* for the *Encouragement* of *Tillage*, till the *Beginning* of *Queen Anne*’s *Reign*, when an *Act* was passed, giving a *Præmium* of one *Shilling* *per Quarter* for exporting *Bear*, *Barley*, *Rye*, and *Malt*, and one *Shilling* and *Six-pence* for *Wheat*. But, as *these* *Præmiums* are only to be given, when *Malt*, *Bear*, and *Barley* are so low as *ten Shillings* *per Quarter*; *Rye*, nine *Shillings*; and *Wheat*, fourteen *Shillings*; it

* The Author of *Some Thoughts on Tillage*.

it is certain, that, *at present*, they are of *no Kind* of Service to the *Public*. The *Legislature*, therefore, in the *first Year* of his *present Majesty's* Reign, made a *Law*, enacting, that *five Acres* in the *hundred*, should be *every where* plowed and sowed, on Pain of *forfeiting* forty Shillings for *every Acre unplowed*, to be *recovered* by *Civil Bill*. But, whether the *Quantity* of Land specified to be *plowed* was *too inconsiderable*, and in *no Sort* proportioned to *support* the *Number* of Inhabitants in *Ireland*; or, whether a *greater Number* of Acres is *not* already generally plowed and sowed in *most Counties* of the Kingdom; or, whether the *Penalty* was so *small*, that *no Person* of *Credit*, would think it *worth* his while to *inform* and *sue* for it; or, *whatever else* might have been the *Reason*, it is certain in *Fact*, that *this Statute*, how well soever *intended* by the *Legislators*, has been of *no Kind* of Use to the *Public*. No; it seems to be *one of those Laws* that have *sometimes* been made with an *Intent never* to be carried into Execution. It is therefore to be presumed, that the *Legislature* will *once more* not only take the *Enlargement* and *Improvement of Tillage* into their *serious Consideration*, and, by a *Law*, limit the *Stock* to be *kept*, or the *Number* of *Acres* to be *taken* and *held* for the *future*, by all *Farmers*, especially by the *Popish Farmers* of *Ireland*, who *always* give *greater Rents* for *Land* than *Protestants*, and therefore, if *permitted*, will *soon engross* the *most Part* of the *Lands* of the Kingdom, as they have *already done* the *Trade* thereof, to *themselves*; and consequently, by getting *most* of the *circulating Cash* into their *Hands*, will, *possibly*, be enabled, *some Time* or other, to *damp* the *Credit* of *Ireland*, or *distress* the *Protestant Interest*, or *Government* thereof; I say, it is to be presumed, the *Legislature* will *not only* take *this* into *serious Consideration*, but also *enjoin* the *Higb-Constables* in their
several

several Districts (who have the *exact* Number of Acres contained in every Denomination of every *Parish* in their *Barony-books*,) or the *Ministers* of every *Parish*, who may possibly find their Account therein, or some other proper Persons throughout the Kingdom, to make true Returns on Oath, at a proper Time, and before proper Persons, such as, the *Governors* of each County, or the *Going-Judges* of *Assize*, of the Number of Acres so plowed and sowed, or neglected to be plowed and sowed by each Farmer, under the severest Penalties. This, or some such Method, I humbly apprehend, would be one effectual Means to prevent the great Poverty and Misery, under which we must necessarily labour in a few Years in this Kingdom for Want of Tillage. And, of this, one of our Legislators * was very sensible, when he observed,

“ That until the lazy Method of employing large
 “ *Traets* of Land in grazing of Cattle, which
 “ prevails in the most fertile Provinces, be abated
 “ by more active Kinds of Husbandry, and by
 “ dividing Lands into smaller Farms, it is vain to
 “ expect any great Improvements in Agriculture,
 “ however proper the Soil of Ireland be for Tillage.
 “ Perhaps, says he, it would prove a good Expedient for dividing Lands into smaller Farms,
 “ if a Law were made to direct the building and
 “ upholding convenient Houses in the Country
 “ with proper Portions of Land to be let to resident Farmers, who, under some peculiar Title,
 “ might be established among us. That this
 “ might be performed, and would greatly tend
 “ to the Improvement of Ireland, will, it is believed, be readily allowed by every one who
 “ gives himself Leisure to think of the Matter ;
 “ and there is too much Reason to apprehend,
 “ that,

* David Bindon, Esq; in the Preface to his Translation of the political Essay on Commerce.

“ that, until *some Method* be practised of *dividing*
 “ *Land into smaller Farms*, at present all At-
 “ tempts to encourage *Tillage*, or to force those
 “ who hold *large Tracts* of Land to sow a Portion
 “ of it with *Corn*, will prove *ineffectual*.” And,
 to the *same Purpose*, the late learned *Querist* *
 judiciously asked, “ If it can be questioned,
 “ whether *large Farms* under *few Hands*, or *small*
 “ *ones* under *many*, are likely to be made *most of*?
 “ And, whether *Tillage* would not naturally *multi-*
 “ *ply Hands*, and *divide Land* into *small Holdings*,
 “ and those *well-improved*?”

But, *here* it will be demanded, that, allowing
all this, in the *general*, to be *true*; yet, what
particular Scheme can be *rationaly* proposed for
 carrying *Tillage* effectually into *Execution*, in *Pro-*
portion to the *Number of Inhabitants* in the *parti-*
cular different Provinces and Counties of *this King-*
dom, in *such Manner* as may be *coincident* with
 the *public Good* of the *whole*? *This* has been the
grand Objection, and, I believe, the *true Reason*,
 why a *Tillage-act* could not be obtained for *several*
Years past, though so *evidently necessary* for the
Good of the *Kingdom*.

To *this* I answer, that, from the *following Out-*
lines or Sketch of a *particular Scheme*, I presume,
 it may appear, that, it is not only *possible*, but *very*
easy to carry *Tillage* into *effectual Execution* by an
Act of Parliament, in *Proportion* to the *Number* of
 the *present Inhabitants*, that are *therein* to be *sub-*
sisted.

* The Bishop of Cloyne.

The S C H E M E.

IN Ireland there are Thirty-two Counties, in Four different Provinces, the Soils of which must be allowed to be different and various. Now, if the Number of Houses in each County can be ascertained: If the Number of Persons in each House in said Counties can be nearly computed: If a certain Number of Barrels of Bread-corn can be fixed for the yearly Maintenance of each Person in every distinct County: If the Number of Plantation-acres in each County can be readily found: And, if the Product of each Acre of Corn, according to the different Soils in said several Counties, can be reasonably determined; it may, then, I presume, be easily judged and nearly fixed, how many Acres in each hundred ought to be plowed and sowed, in every distinct County, for the Subsistence of its Inhabitants, throughout the Kingdom; from whence a Medium may be easily struck for every particular Province, if necessary.

Now, that all this may be done, I think, will plainly appear from the following Calculations.

In the Province of Ulster there are nine Counties. I shall begin with that of Antrim, wherein, as appears by the Hearth-money Books for the Year 1752, there are 18,590 Houses: And allowing eight Persons, at a Medium, to each House, there will be 148,720 Persons found in the whole County. To support said 148,720 Persons for one Year, eight Barrels of Oats [Bristol-measure] the general Product of that Country, (and, indeed, the common Support of the People for Bread throughout the Kingdom,) will be found no more than barely sufficient to supply each Person with Bread alone; which will amount to 1,189,760 Barrels, for the yearly Support of said whole County. Now, in
this

this County there are 388,320 Plantation-acres, as appears by the best Survey hitherto made thereof; and allowing each Acre to be plowed therein to produce 8 Barrels of Oats yearly, at a Medium; then, 148,720 Acres are to be plowed for the bare Support of the Inhabitants of said County in Bread: And consequently, upon a just Calculation, it will be found, that thirty eight Acres, three Roods, and twelve Perches, are to be plowed yearly out of every hundred Acres of Land in said County: Now, deduct one fourth Part of the above Quantity for the Wheat consumed only by the better Sort, and for Potatoes, and other animal and vegetable Food; and then, there will remain in each hundred, about twenty-five Acres and a half to be yearly plowed. Though, I make no doubt, but that, if the Corn used for the Support of the King's Troops, Horses, Hounds, Beer, Ale, Whisky, Poultry, &c. which I here omit, be taken into the Account, it will prove more than a Counter-balance to said fourth Part, deducted for Wheat, Potatoes, and other Food, not only in this County, but in all the Counties of Ulster. However, I would much rather be under than above the Truth in these Computations, in order to leave no manner of Room for Objections.

By the same Method of Calculation, we shall find, that forty-seven Acres, Plantation-measure, are to be plowed out of every hundred in the County of Armagh; twenty-two Ditto in the County of Cavan; fifty-one Ditto in the populous County of Down; fourteen Ditto in the County of Donegal; nineteen Ditto in the County of Fermanagh; thirty-eight Ditto in the County of Londonderry; forty-three Ditto in the County of Monaghan; and twenty-six Ditto in the County of Tyrone. And if so, then, the Medium, after the Deduction of said fourth Part, will, for the whole Province, be twenty-five Acres to be plowed out of every hundred.

And now, I would ask any one that has made Observations on *this* noble Province with regard to Tillage, “ Whether there are not *twenty-five Acres* and more, at present, plowed and sowed out of every hundred in several Counties thereof, though not in all?”

In the Province of *Leinster*, by the same Method of Calculation, only allowing *seven* Persons to each House, including the City of *Dublin*, and other Cities, and *twelve Barrels* of Corn to be, at a Medium, the Product of each Plantation-acre, the Tillage in most Counties of said Province being generally good, (though, I think *this too high* a Computation,) the Number of Acres to be plowed and sowed out of each hundred will stand thus: Twenty Acres, Plantation-measure, out of each hundred in the County of *Catherlogh*; seventy-five Ditto in the County of *Dublin*, on Account of the *Populousness* of the City; nineteen Ditto in the County of *Kildare*; eighteen Ditto in the County of *Kilkenny*; fourteen Ditto in the *King's-County*; seventeen Ditto in the County of *Longford*; thirty-three Ditto in the County of *Louth*; twenty Ditto in the County of *Meath*; nineteen Ditto in the *Queen's-County*; sixteen Ditto in the County of *Westmeath*; seventeen Ditto in the County of *Wexford*; and thirteen Ditto in the County of *Wicklow*: Now, deduct a *fourth Part* of the above Allowance for each Person on Account of *Potatoes*, and other animal and vegetable Food; (though the Corn generally expended by the *King's Troops*, *Horses*, *Beer*, *Ale*, *Whiskey*, *Poultry*, *Sailors*, *Sojourners*, &c. will probably more than counter-balance said *fourth Part* in *this Province*); and then, at a Medium, the Number of Plantation-acres to be plowed and sowed will be eighteen out of each hundred throughout said Province. And here again, I would ask, “ Whether there are not more than *eighteen Acres* out of every hundred generally

“generally plowed and sowed already, in most of
 “the Counties of said Province, though not in
 “every one of them?”

In the Province of Munster, by the same Method of Computation, only allowing *six Persons* to each House (including the Cities), and *twelve Barrels* of Oats to be the *Product* of each Acre in the rich Grounds of the Counties of *Limerick* and *Tipperary*; ten of *Kerry*; ten of *Clare*; (though *this* is by some thought too high a Computation), and eight of *Corke* and *Waterford*; the Number of Acres to be plowed out of each Hundred in said Counties will stand thus: Ten Plantation Acres in the County of *Clare*; eight Ditto in the County of *Kerry*; seventeen Ditto in the County of *Limerick*; twelve Ditto in the County of *Tipperary*; twenty-two Ditto, or about thirty-three *English* Acres in the County of *Waterford*: So that, the *Medium* to be plowed in *this* County, where the *English* Acre is the only one used, will be about twenty-two *English* Acres; and twenty-six *Plantation*, or about forty-one *English* Acres in the County of *Corke*, that being the *Measurement* also used in said County: So that, the *Medium* will be about twenty-eight *English* Acres to be plowed out of each Hundred therein. Now, deduct one third Part of the above, on Account of *Wheat*, and the *Potatoes* which are very plenty in said Province, (though the *Corn* expended in the Support of the *King's Troops*, *Horses*, *Beer*, *Ale*, *Whiskey*, *Sailors*, &c. be very great, though here omitted); and then, the Number of *Plantation-acres* to be plowed out of Each Hundred, at a *Medium*, will be, only, *Nine*, throughout the whole Province; except in the Counties of *Waterford* and *Corke*. And here I would also ask, whether one Half of the above-mentioned Number of Acres be tilled in any one County of *this* Province? I believe, no considering Man that views
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the Country in its *present* Condition will ever say so, it being *mostly* over-run with *Bullocks, Sheep, Dairy-cows, and barren Cattle.*

And, in the *Province of Connaught*, if we compute in the *same* Manner, allowing *six* Persons to each House, and *nine* Barrels to be, at a *Medium*, the *Product* of each Acre, *Plantation-measure*, (though *this* may be *too much* too); we shall find the *Number* of Acres to be *plowed* and *sowed* out of each Hundred in each County to stand thus: *Ten Plantation-Acres* in the County of *Galway*; *ten Ditto* in the County of *Leitrim*; *nine Ditto* in the County of *Mayo*; *twelve Ditto* in the County of *Roscommon*; and *thirteen Ditto* in the County of *Sligo*. Now, deduct *one third* Part of the *above*, (for *Wheat, Potatoes, and other Food*, beside *what* is expended for *Horses, Ale, Whiskey, &c.* though, perhaps, *no Allowance* ought to be made on *this* Account in *this* Province;) and *then*, the *Number* of Acres to be *plowed* out of each Hundred, at a *Medium*, throughout the Province, will be only, *Seven*; which, I believe, *every* Man will own to be *little enough* for the *immediate Support* of the *present* Inhabitants of *that* Province, how much soever over-run with *Bullocks, Sheep, Dairy-cows, and young barren Cattle.*

Thus, my Lord, I think, it appears, that a *particular Scheme* may be, and is found to carry *Tillage* effectually into *Execution*, in *Proportion* to the *present* Number of Inhabitants in the *particular* Counties throughout the *four different* Provinces of the Kingdom. It appears, that *Tillage* will be *increased* only in a *few particular* Counties of *Ulster* and *Leinster*, the *rest* *plowing* and *sowing* already as much perhaps as will *support* their *respective* Inhabitants. But, in *Munster* and *Connaught*, the *Tillage* is so *very inconsiderable*, that in *Case* of a *Frost*, or *Scarcity*, *Multitudes* of the Inhabitants must certainly perish for *Want* of *Bread*; there

not

not being, by one half, *Corn enough* at this Day in said Provinces for the *Subsistence* of their *respective* Inhabitants for one Year. I therefore humbly submit it to your *Lordship* and the *Public*, whether an *Act of Parliament* for the *Enlargement* and *promoting* of *Tillage* in *Ireland* may not be *justly* founded on this, or *some Plan* of the like Nature, which, upon Consideration, *may*, and *will*, no doubt, be altered, or amended, as shall seem *reasonable* or *expedient* to the *Legislature*, who are the *best* and *only* Judges of all Matters of this Kind, and *great* Consequence to the *Public*. Would it be *amiss* to try, by making a *Law* under proper Penalties, to plow and sow ten or twelve *Plantation-acres*, for the Space of four Years, out of every hundred throughout the Kingdom, whether such *Tillage* would be *sufficient* to support the *Inhabitants* thereof, without *importing* any foreign *Corn* into it. If found not sufficient; then, might it not be easily enlarged by *Degrees*, 'till it should appear, we had *Corn enough* to support *ourselves*, without sending our *circulating Cash* out of the Kingdom for it?

This would gradually render *Tillage* easy, and familiar to the *Farmers* of *Ireland*, without Burthen, without Oppression, or heavy Expence; and, in a few Years, would reconcile them to, and steal them into it: Though, I will be bold to say, that, if we deduct, as certainly we ought, the vast Tracts of mountainous, heathy, boggy, woody, rocky, and other *unarable* Grounds, which are visible almost in every County, in every Province; twelve Acres out of each hundred of *arable* Lands, though never so well tilled, will not be sufficient to support the present numerous Inhabitants of the Kingdom in *Bread*, without *Malt-liquor*, whereof prodigious Quantities are used.

But, say the *Farmers*, the *Quantity* of *Land* now mentioned will prove too much to be plowed and
sowed

sowed for the Consumption of the Kingdom; and then, what can be done with the redundant Corn?

To this I answer, that the Objection is ill-founded, and consequently, unfairly urged. It supposes and takes for granted, that so much Tillage, as is now-mentioned, will be more than sufficient to support all its Inhabitants (which is begging the Question) without any Experiment; and, if what is above said be true, must be false. If so small a Quantity as mentioned will be sufficient, there will surely be no manner of Occasion to send 300,000 l. a Year out of it for Bread, Flower, and Malt-liquor. What I contend for is this, That, at present, there is, by no Means, Tillage enough in the Kingdom, in Proportion to the Number of People to be therein subsisted; and that, the Addition, intended by the above Scheme to be made thereto, will not be more than sufficient for the Consumption of Ireland.

But supposing, though not granting, that, if the Farmers of Ireland should till their Lands, suant to the Scheme just now laid down, in every County, there would be too great a Plenty and Redundancy of Corn in the Kingdom, for which there would probably be no good Markets, and consequently, that they would not be able to pay their Rents: I will be bold to say, that this Objection will be fully answered, by shewing,

In the 2d Place, that, it is not only prudent and expedient, but highly necessary and beneficial, to Ireland in general, as well as to the particular Farmers thereof, that Granaries should be erected in proper Places throughout the Kingdom, at the public Expence; and that, Præmiums should be granted, by Act of Parliament, upon the Exportation of each Kind of Grain produced therein, under such Restrictions and Regulations as shall appear expedient to the Legislature, whensoever Corn shall be too plenty and redundant in the Kingdom.

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*These are Points so reasonable and evident in themselves, that they need rather Illustration than Proof. For, can any Thing be more clear, than that the enlarging of Tillage would naturally and necessarily introduce Granaries among us, in order not only to store up the superfluous Corn of a good Season to supply the Scarcity of a bad one, when it would bear a high Price; but also in order to export it for the general Good of the Kingdom, as well as for the particular Profit of the Farmers themselves and Merchants, whensoever there should be a Demand for it in other Countries? This, I think, is a Matter self-evident. However, to enforce it, I need only observe, that, Corn being from the Beginning of the World absolutely necessary for the Support of Mankind; and that, Harvests proving sometimes so bad, as not to produce sufficient Sustainance for them, it is reasonable thence to conclude, that in all Ages and Countries, they took due Care for the keeping and preserving of the Redundancy of Grain in good Years in proper Store-houses or Granaries, in order to support them in bad Seasons. Accordingly, we find, that * Joseph in Egypt, during the seven Years of Plenty, gathered a sufficient Stock of Corn, not for Egypt only, but to supply the neighbouring Countries of Canaan and Arabia, and laid it up providentially and carefully in Granaries erected for that Purpose; and, when the seven Years of Famine came, whereof he had warned Pharaoh or Thufimires, he opened his Stores, and, by selling his Provisions, acquired immense Riches for his King, without accepting of the Offer made by the Egyptians (after they had exchanged their Lands, their Money, and Cattle for Corn) of becoming Pharaoh's Slaves for Food; being, no doubt, desirous not only to establish a sufficient Revenue for the Occasions of*

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* *Shuckford's Connect.*

the *Crown*; but, at the *same Time*, to give the *Subjects* a *Property* of their own, as well as to *excite* their *Industry* to *improve* it, and to *raise* in them a *Sense* of *Duty* and *Affection* to the *Government*, that *protected* them in the *secure Enjoyment* of it. *Diodorus Siculus* tells us *, that, *Attica* in *Greece* being a *barren Country*, *Eriethonius*, who probably came from *Egypt*, being *King*, taught his *People* to bring *Corn* from *Egypt*, and lay it up in *Store-houses* in his own *Kingdom*, about sixty-three *Years* after *Cecrops*, who is said to have been *Contemporary* with *Moses*. *Lycurgus* obliged the *Helotæ*, or the *public Slaves* of the *State* of *Sparta*, not only to *till* the *Ground*, but also to gather the *Fruits* thereof into *Store-houses* or *Granaries*, to be *thence* drawn out for the *public Sustenance* of the *People*. In *antient Rome*, we read, that amongst the *other Buildings* remarkable for *Magnificence*, were reckoned, the *public Granaries*, which were *great Structures*, of which the *Inside* formed a *great Square*, surrounded with *Porticoes* and a *Collonade*. For, “ the *Romans*, (says the Author † of *their Manners and Customs*,) “ out of a *wise Precaution*, had *usually Corn* for “ a *Year* in *Rome*, in order to support *Plenty*, and “ not to be distressed in *Times* of *Dearth*. The “ *Price* of it was *taxed*, and it was sold out of “ these *Granaries*; and the *Tribute*, which some “ *Provinces* of the *Empire* paid in *Corn*, served “ to fill these *Granaries*.” And, in another *Place*, says he, “ The *Grain* was carried to the “ *public Magazines* erected at *Rome*, by *Way* of “ *Precaution* against *Scarcity*, and to perpetuate “ *Plenty* in it.” From whence, as well as from all the *Roman Historians*, it is evident, that *beathen Rome* took *particular Care*, by erecting *public Granaries*, to have *Corn* sufficient to supply the *Exigencies*

* *Diodor. Sicul. L. I.*

† Author of the *Manners and Customs of the Romans*.

*Exigencies of the State upon all Occasions; and whenever they failed, or neglected, to keep their Granaries well stored, Mutinies, Seditions, and Insurrections were frequently the Consequences of such Failure or Neglect. Nor has Papal Christian Rome been less careful in this Matter. Every Body knows, that throughout all the Pope's Dominions, except in those few Places that have yet preserved their Liberties, " No Person whatsoever is suffered " to sell Corn to any Strangers; but, all those " that have any, are obliged to sell it at a Price " certain to the ecclesiastical Chamber, the great " Granary of modern Rome." From whence, says Bishop Burnet *, " in selling it out, the Measure " is lessened a fifth Part, and the Price of the " whole is doubled. So that, what was bought at " five Crowns is sold out at twelve." But, Granaries are not so oppressively managed at Geneva, which, though but a little State, " Yet," says the same Bishop, " has so many good Constitutions " in it, that the greatest may justly learn at it. " The Chamber of the Corn has always two Years " Provision for the City in Store, and forces none " but the Bakers to buy of it at a taxed Price; and " so, it is both necessary for any Extremities " under which the State may fall, and is likewise " of great Advantage; For, it gives a good yearly " Income, that has helped the State to pay near a " Million of Debt contracted during the Wars, " and the Citizens are not oppressed by it. For, " every Inhabitant may buy his own Corn as he " pleases, only public Houses must buy from the " Chamber." " In Genoa," (says Misson †); " in " several Parts of France; in Flanders, almost in " every City; in Poland, Dantzick, Prussia, Hannover, and other Electorates of Germany, there " are*

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* See the Appendix to Bishop Burnet's Travels.

† Misson's Voyage to Italy, Vol. 2.

“ are *Granaries*, which turn greatly to the Advantage of the *Public*, as well as of particular Persons.” In *Holland*, every body knows, there are vast *Granaries*; and that the *Dutch* buy *Corn* from all Countries in *Europe* when plenty and cheap; and often sell it in Time of Scarcity to the very same Countries again at a dear Rate. “ In *Moscow*,” as Doctor Pell * tells us, “ there are *Granaries*, which they make under Ground, by digging a deep Pit of almost the Figure of a *Sugar-Loaf*, broad below, and narrow at the Top, the Sides well plaistered round about, and the Top well covered with Stone.” In *America*, in several of our own *Plantations*, particularly in *New-England*, there are *Granaries* so well stored with *Corn*, as to be able to supply *Ireland*, to the great Advantage of that Country, and our shameful Loss, as well as other Countries of *Europe*, when in Want of Grain. Nay, the *savage Indians* in that Part of the World are said to lay up *Maiz* in Store for themselves against Winter. But, to come nearer home, “ In *England*,” as Doctor Merrit † tells us, “ the twelve Companies of *London*, and some other Companies, and private Persons, have their *Granaries* at the *Bridge-house* in *Southwark*, where there are a Justice of the Peace, a Steward, and two Masters; and gives us an exact Plan thereof, as well as of others in *Kent* and other Places; and asserts, that *Corn* has been kept in *London Granaries* thirty-two Years; and that, the longer it is kept, the more Flour it yields in Proportion to the Quantity of *Corn*; and makes the purer and whiter Bread. The superfluous Humidity only evaporates.” And,

Doctor

* Phil. Transf. abridg. by Lowthorp, Vol. I.

† Ibidem.

Doctor Pell says, " That they keep Corn at Zurich
 " in *Helvetia* eighty Years." But however that
 may be, it is certain, that in *Ireland* no public *Grana-*
ries have been as yet erected, (except one, I hear,
 at *Armagh*,) though, in the *Reign* of Queen *Eliza-*
beth, the celebrated Mr. *Spencer* *, who wisely
 foresaw the *Necessity* of building them in *this* Coun-
 try, says, " But hereafter, when Things shall grow
 " into a better Strength, and the Country be re-
 " plenished with Corn, as, in short Space it will,
 " if it be well followed: For, the Country-peo-
 " ple themselves are great Plowers and small
 " Spenders of Corn; (how different from the
 Countrymen of the present Times!) " then would
 " I wish there be good Store of Houses and Maga-
 " zines erected in all those great Places of Garri-
 " son, and in all great Towns, as well for the vic-
 " tualling of Soldiers and Ships, as for all Occasions
 " of sudden Services; as also, for preventing, at
 " all Times, Dearth and Scarcity." In the
 Reign of King *Charles II.* the late Sir *Richard*
Cox † tells us, " The Country being in Want
 " of Provisions, a Proclamation was issued by the
 " Government, to appoint Granaries for Wheat
 " and Oat-meal in several Parts of the Kingdom;
 " but, we are not informed, whether such Procla-
 " tion had any Effect." If it had, it is probable,
 it would have been mentioned. How justly,
 therefore, may I apply to *Ireland*, what *Solomon*
 said to the Sluggard ‡, " Go to the Ant, thou Slug-
 " gard, consider her Ways, and be wise; which,
 " having no Guide, Overseer, or Ruler, provideth
 " her Meat in the Summer, and gathereth her Food
 " in the Harvest. How long wilt thou Sleep, O
 " Sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy Sleep?
 " Yet,

* *Spencer's View of Ireland.*

† Appendix to *Cox's History of Ireland*, Ann. 1666.

‡ *Prov.* vi. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

“ *Yet, a little Sleep, a little Slumber, a little folding of the Hands to Sleep. So shall thy Poverty come, as one that travelleth, and thy Want, as an armed Man.*”

Thus does it appear, that *Granaries* for Corn have, in all Ages and wise Countries, been erected for the Service of the Public, as well as for the Benefit and Advantage of particular Persons. To enumerate all the Benefits arising from them would be endless. A learned and worthy Member * of the present House of Commons of Ireland has done it so judiciously and well, that I need only transcribe his Words upon the Subject. After he had proposed erecting and maintaining *Granaries*, as the only proper and effectual Encouragement to Tillage, and clearly shewn, that they are, at the same Time, equally advantageous to the industrious Manufacturer and Labourer, by preventing the unreasonable Price of Provisions, he goes on and says, “ The Nation that erects and possesses these *Granaries*, may, in plentiful Seasons, either lay up their own Grain, and preserve it safe from Vermin until a Scarcity happens; or, lay in Grain bought abroad, wherever they find there have been plentiful Crops, and cheap Markets.

“ It is a great Happiness and Blessing to any People to live in a Climate, where, by the Temperature of the Air, and Goodness of the Soil, they have Plenty of Provisions. At the same Time it is their Interest, that the Price should not be so low as to discourage the Farmer to till and improve his Grounds; nor a Temptation to others, by the Plenty and Cheapness of Provisions, to live idly, and mispend their Time, to the public Loss of the Kingdom.

“ There

* *Arthur Dobbs, Esq;*

“ There is an *equitable* Price that *Provisions*
 “ should be kept at, as near as possible, to en-
 “ courage both the *Farmer* and *Manufacturer* ;
 “ that, the *one* may *improve* his *Land*, and the
 “ other *sell* his *Manufacture* to *Advantage*, and
 “ live *comfortably* by his *Labour* ; and, by *that*
 “ Means, may afford to sell at *Par* with other
 “ Nations abroad. This *good End* may be ob-
 “ tained by having *Granaries* and *Laws* to regulate
 “ the *Price* at the *buying in*, and *selling out* of
 “ them again. For, by them, they can not only
 “ preserve their *Grain safe* from *Vermin*, but
 “ sound and *sweet* for many Years, with *very little*
 “ Cost ; and *always* have the *best* Price for their
 “ Corn, when *Markets rise* abroad. And those
 “ Countries which have them, (where, by their
 “ Situation, or Number of *Inhabitants*, they
 “ cannot be supplied at home) by their buying
 “ cheap from those Countries which want *Grana-*
 “ *ries*, and for *that* Reason are obliged to sell
 “ their Grain, will *scarce* ever want ; when even
 “ those *very Nations* which supply them, by want-
 “ ing *Granaries*, in *bad* Seasons, may be liable to
 “ *Famine* and *great Distress*.

“ Nations, that want *Granaries*, must only sow
 “ as much Grain as will be *sufficient* to supply
 “ them a *Year* ; or, be obliged to let their Corn
 “ perish ; or, sell it so cheap, that the *Merchant*
 “ may have Profit in sending it abroad. Very
 “ often *plentiful* Crops happen to be *general* over
 “ a *whole Continent*, as it is frequently in *Europe*.
 “ There would then be a *Necessity* of selling it
 “ cheap, or letting it *perish*.” — And I may here
 add, there may be also very *bad* Crops in several
 Countries, as *last* Season, in *Spain* and *Portugal* ;
 which, had we Corn in *Store* ; we might have sup-
 plied, to our great *national Advantage*. And, do
 we think, they will not *this* Season also, wherein
 they are *distressed*, buy up Corn in *New-England*
 and

and other Countries, and thereby prevent and hinder us from importing it, when, in all Probability, we shall greatly want it. "But," continues *this Gentleman*, "should we build Granaries, we need not be afraid of improving our Lands, and raising great Quantities of Grain. For, then, by having it in our Power to keep it sound, sweet, and safe from Vermin many Years, we might always have the best Price going abroad; and, in Case of bad Crops, might be under no Apprehensions of Want at Home, or, be forced to give a great Price for it abroad in our Necessity. The Abatement of Interest would also enable us to lodge it for a considerable Time with little Loss; by which Means, the Profit would be the greater upon the Rise of the Market. We would then have an Opportunity of exporting it upon the first Notice of a Demand abroad; whereas it frequently happened, that though we had plentiful Harvests when there was a Demand abroad, and Merchants offered a considerable Price, the Farmers could not furnish a Cargo in Time: But, those Countries which had Granaries, though at a greater Distance, answered the Demand sooner, and prevented the Sale of ours. At other Times, the Farmers, expecting a greater Price, would not sell. And thus, the Kingdom lost the Benefit of the Market. And therefore, for these Reasons, says he, it would be of great Service, if the Legislature would think of a Fund to build Granaries at the public Expence, and have them put under a proper Direction for the Good of the Kingdom."

Another very ingenious Member * of our honourable House of Commons observes, "That the
"greatest

* David Bindon, Esq; in the *Political Essay on Commerce*.

“ greatest Plenty of Corn is almost always succeeded by
 “ a Dearth; perhaps, because, the very low Price of
 “ Corn doth discourage the Husbandman from sowing.
 “ Then mighty Projects are formed for building public
 “ Granaries, in Order to secure the People against
 “ Famine at all Events. But, these Projects, which
 “ the present Misery brought forth, disappear by De-
 “ grees, as the Memory of the Evil wears off: And,
 “ too full of the present Circumstances, there is little
 “ Care taken to obviate an Evil which appeareth un-
 “ certain when it may come to pass; although ten
 “ succeeding Years are seldom seen without a Scarcity
 “ of Corn.”

Thus, my Lord, does it, in my humble Appre-
 hension, appear as demonstrably certain as any thing
 of this Nature can, not only from the Practice of all
 wise People in all Ages and Nations who have erected
 public Granaries for the Preservation of their Grain;
 but also, from the many and various Benefits and Ad-
 vantages necessarily arising from them, not only to
 the Public in general, but also to the Farmers of Ire-
 land in particular, if erected, by supplying them with
 constant steady Markets, and good Prices for their Corn,
 without the Expence of Carriage to far-distant Places;
 That the Objection raised against the Increase of Til-
 lage by a Law, from the Uncertainty of Markets, and
 Cheapness of Corn if plenty, being evidently without
 Foundation, must fall to the Ground; and conse-
 quently, that it is not only highly necessary to enlarge
 our Tillage, but also prudent, expedient, and absolutely
 necessary, that public Granaries should be built, at the
 public Expence, in proper Places, throughout the King-
 dom. Would it be unreasonable to lay a Tax of one
 Shilling yearly on every Dairy-cow, and apply the Re-
 venue arising from thence to the building of public Gra-
 naries in every County?

And, would it not be a further Encouragement
 both to Farmers and Merchants, and quite silence every
 Objection, if Premiums should be granted by the

Legislature on the Exportation of Corn of every Kind
 under proper Regulations and Restrictions? If the
 Premiums given by Doctor Madden, and the Dublin
 Society, encourage private Farmers to make Experi-
 ments, and vie with one another in the Goodness of
 their Tillage; would not sufficient Premiums given by
 Parliament, greatly encourage all Farmers in general
 to enlarge and improve their Tillage, since the Prices of
 Corn would be thereby raised, as well as encourage
 Merchants to export it to foreign Markets, whensoever
 there should be a Demand for it? This, in the general,
 is so very evident and clear, that, I presume, I need
 no longer insist upon it. And, can there a better Op-
 portunity be offered to propose a Law on the Subject
 of these Papers than the present, when His Grace the
 Duke of DORSET is pleased to kindly to assure us,
 That his Conduct shall demonstrate, that the true
 Interest of Ireland shall be unalterably the great Ob-
 ject of his Zeal. Yea, and his Majesty himself
 has, like the true Father of his People, been most
 graciously pleased to assure us, Of his continued and
 unwearied Endeavours to promote the true Interest and
 Happiness of his Subjects in Ireland.
 Thus, my Lord, have I taken Leave to lay my
 Sentiments, as well as the Sentiments and Arguments
 of others, on these important and interesting Subjects,
 in a plain, but hasty, and, therefore, in a somewhat
 confused Manner, before your Lordship: And, shall
 submit it to your Lordship, as well as to the Public,
 Whether, in order to make some among us see and
 feel, it be not often necessary to inculcate the very
 same Things upon, and place them in different Lights,
 before them; and especially, at this juncture?
 A fertile Land, together with the Frugality and In-
 dustry of its Inhabitants, has been always, and must
 for ever, be allowed to be Funds of Wealth to any Na-
 tion, if duly cultivated and improved. Is not Ireland,
 for the most Part, a fertile Soil, and in a good Climate;
 as capable of Improvement of all Kinds, as any Coun-
 try

try in *Europe*; and as well situated by *Nature* for *Trade* and *Commerce*? And yet, is there any Country in *Europe*, where the common People generally labour more under *Want* and *Misery*; who are more indolent and supine; who have a greater Aversion to *Arts* and *Industry*; who love *Idleness*, *Dirt*, and *Nastiness* to a greater Degree; who so contrive as to be impoverished by their own *Trade*; and, who have so many able idle Hands among them; and yet, are obliged to *America* and other Countries for *Bread*, to the Value of 300,000 l. a Year? "Was there ever," says a great Author, "in any Part of the Christian or civilized World, a Country, in so poor and wretched Circumstances, and which, at the same Time, could be so easily remedied, and yet the Remedy not applied, though in our own Hands? If therefore, the People will not think for themselves, is it not incumbent on the Public to think for them?" Can private Endeavours, without proper Laws, and some Assistance from the Legislature, enlarge Tillage, erect Granaries, promote Industry, or advance our Manufactures, to any considerable Degree, contrary to the very Genius and Inclinations of the People? If what the Author of the *Political Essay on Commerce* says be true, "That, all that Morality can lay against *Idleness* in *France*, will be insufficient, until it be made a State or capital Crime, as being the Root of all other Crimes; what will make the Natives of *Ireland* (the most lazy and indolent People in the World) industrious? Are not two Provinces out of four, for the most Part, already stocked with Cattle, instead of People? And, in a Course of a few Years, without Laws to promote Industry, and encourage Arts and Manufactures, must not whole Countries become Deserts? But, is not the reclaiming of barren Lands, and making them profitable by Tillage, to conquer new Countries, without making any one Man therein miserable? "Corn,"

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says

* The late Bishop of Cloyne.

says a *French Author* *, " is the *Basis of Trade*; because, it is the *necessary Support of Life*; and the *providing thereof ought to be the first Care of the Legislature.*"

If any of the *Hints* contained in these Papers should happen to prove *useful* on the Subjects of *Tillage* and *Granaries*, the *Author* of them will think himself *fortunate* in suggesting them to the *Public*, having no other View than thereby to *promote* the common Good of his *Country*; and to *excite* some, who have *clearer Heads* and *better Pens*, to propose a *more rational and practical Scheme* for the *Enlargement of Tillage* in *Ireland*, in *Proportion* to the *Number of its present Inhabitants*; which every *thinking unprejudiced Man* must own, from what has been offered, and, probably, from his *own Experience*, to be not only of *great Importance*, but *highly necessary* at this *Conjuncture*. And therefore, as the *public Good* is *sincerely* his *Motive* and *Aim* in troubling others and himself on this *Occasion*, he flatters himself, your *Lordship*, (whose *Censure* he dreads more than that of the *Public*) will be so good as to *pardon* him for addressing so *prolix* and *ill-digested Papers*, to one, who is so well known, not only to *understand* wherein the common Good of *Ireland*, as well as of its *Individuals*, consists; but, who has been, *always active* and *ready* to *promote* it, as well as to *promote* the Good of all *Mankind*.

I am, My LORD,

Your LORDSHIP's most dutiful,

most faithful, and

most obedient humble Servant,

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* The Author of the *Essay on Commerce*.

